

MARVEL
COMICS



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APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

EXCALIBUR

MEETS...
THE **NTH** MAN?!



STAN LEE PRESENTS

REEL PEOPLE

JAMIE BRADDOCK

SITS

WATCHING THE WORLD WHIZZ BY WHILE IN WONDERMENT

STARRING **EXCALIBUR**

BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT &
BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH

BILL SIENKIEWICZ
INKER

(PAUSING EVERY SO OFTEN TO NOTE TO HIMSELF, WITH A GIGGLE OF SAGACIOUS DELIGHT, LIKE THE SUPER-COMPUTER SHALMANESER IN JOHN BRUNNER'S CLASSIC STAND ON ZANZIBAR :

"CRIPES, WHAT AN IMAGINATION I'VE GOT!")

BECAUSE REALITY TO US

TO HIM, IS PUREST MAKE-BELIEVE

THINKS HIMSELF FAST ASLEEP, YOU SEE

AND ALL ABOUT HIM

THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF GOSSAMER

FANTASY

OW!

BONK

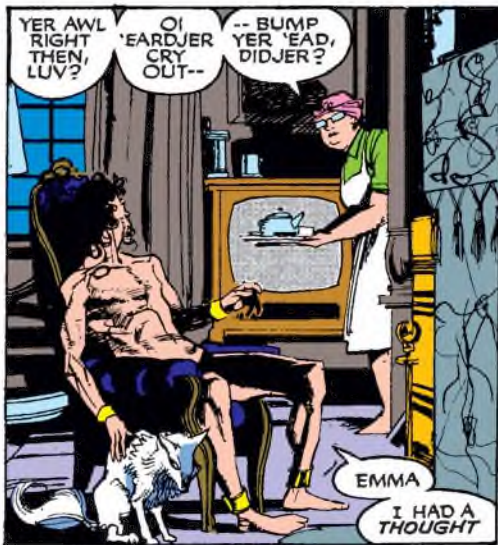
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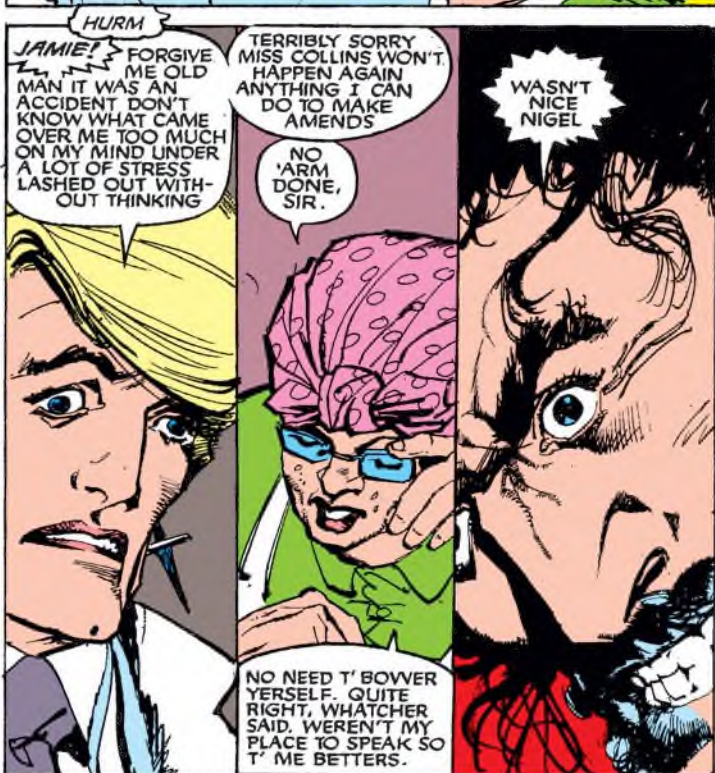
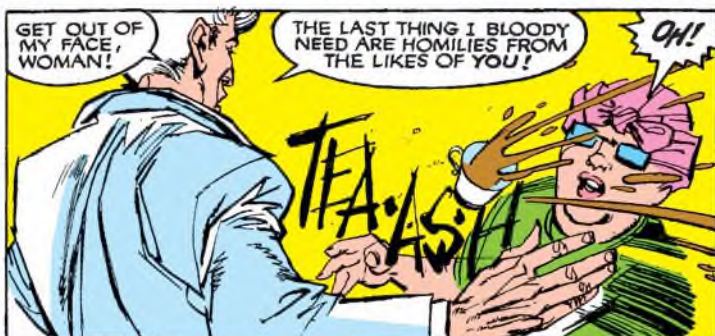
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NIGEL FROBISHER. BIG-LEAGUE BANKER WANNABE WITH AMBITIONS. BUT THE STRINGS OF HIS MAKE-UP-- PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL-- ARE NOWHERE NEAR AS COMPLEX AS HE BELIEVES.





NOT WHAT YOU DID

NOT WHAT YOU SAID

Hagckgh

JAMIE, PLEASE--
I SAID
I WAS
SORRY!

WORDS

NOT GOOD
ENOUGH



AND
SOME
STRINGS
GET
PULLED.



THE NETWORKS OF
MATTER AND ENERGY
THAT MAKE UP THE
UNIVERSE.



JAMIE CAN NOT ONLY
PERCEIVE THEM.



HE CAN
RIP THE
PATTERNS
APART--

--TIE 'EM IN
KNOTS, TWIST
'EM, TANGLE
'EM, TEAR 'EM--

--REWEAVE
WHAT WAS...

... INTO
SOMETHING
ALTOGETHER
DIFFERENT.



BEEN A
BAD BOY
NIGEL

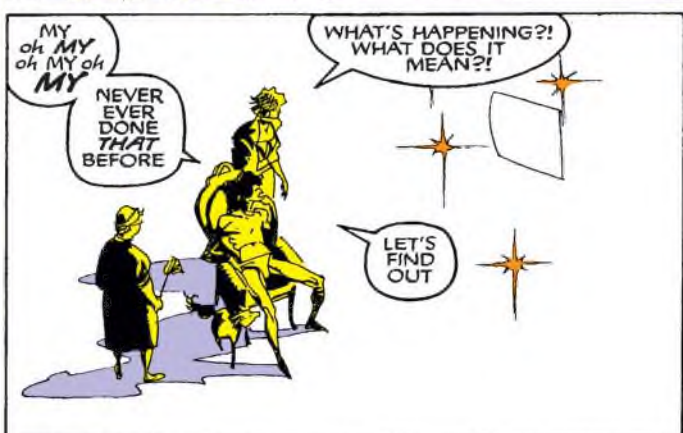
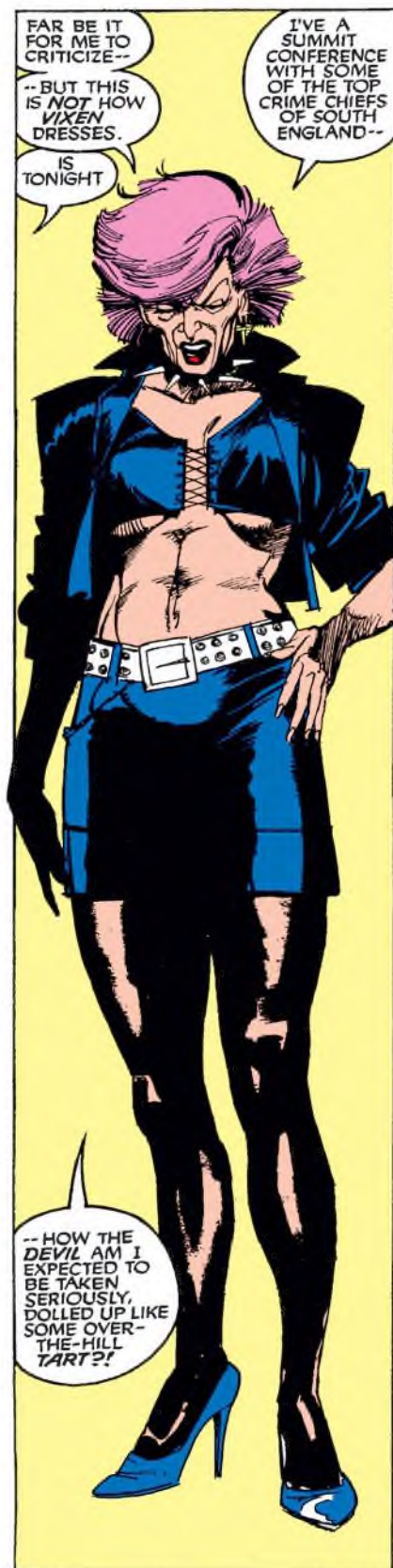
NEED A
LESSON IN
MANNERS

THIS
ISN'T
FUNNY,
JAMIE!

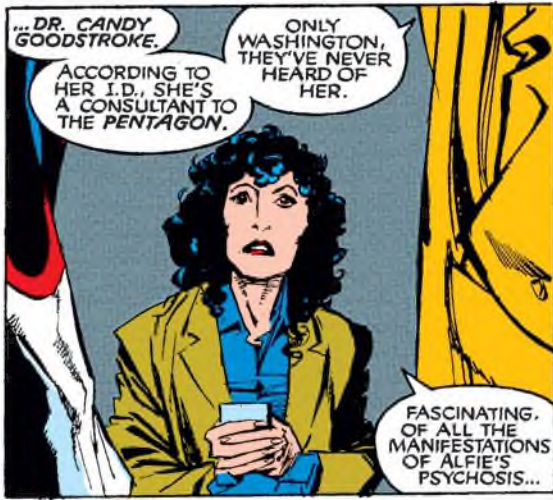
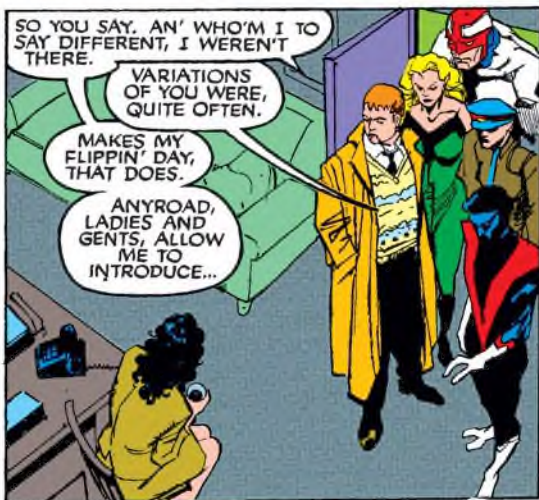
IT ISN'T
FAIR!



IS TO
ME









SHE IS FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.



AN EARTH CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF A NON-NUCLEAR WORLD WAR III, COURTESY OF A SELF-STYLED "ALL-POWERFUL, ALL-COMPASSIONATE" SUPER-BEING...

...NAMED ALFIE O'MEAGAN.



DR. GOODSTROKE'S BRIEF WAS TO TRY TO PSYCH HIM OUT OF HIS MEGALOMANIA.

THERE WAS A FLASH OF LIGHT AND SHE FOUND HERSELF IN PINWOOD.

TOO DISORIENTED BY THE TRANSITION TO PINPOINT PRECISELY WHERE.

AND SINCE SHE HASN'T A CLUE HOW SHE GOT HERE...

...SHE KNOWS NO WAY TO SEND HERSELF BACK.



PHOENIX SEEMS A BIT DISTRACTED. NIGHTCRAWLER-- IS SHE ALL RIGHT?

WHO KNOWS, BRIGADIER.

SHE'S BEEN UNDER AN AWFUL STRAIN LATELY.

I'M AFRAID IT'S TAKEN MORE OF A TOLL...

... THAN SHE'S WILLING TO ADMIT.



IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, ALL, I'D BEST TAG ALONG.

MEGGAN-- PERHAPS IF YOU SHAPE-SHIFT INTO A FORM THAT ENHANCES YOUR TRACKING SENSES...

... YOU CAN FOLLOW DR. GOODSTROKE'S TRAIL BACK TO WHEREVER SHE MATERIALIZED.



SHE WALKS.

NO INTEREST IN WHERE HER WAYWARD STEPS LEAD HER.

USING THE HOLLOW ECHO...

... OF HIGH HEELS ON PAVEMENT-- A SHARP, STACCATO METRONOME-- TO DROWN OUT HER MEMORIES.



SO TELL ME--

--WHAT'S A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU DOING...

...WANDERING UNESCORTED?

JUST STROLLING.

TAKES MY MIND OFF THINKING.

LIKE THE SUIT, NIGHTCRAWLER-- BUT SHOULDN'T YOU BE WITH THE OTHERS, ON THE JOB?

A TEMPORARY LOAN FROM WARDROBE. AND ANYTHING COMES ALONG THAT CAP AND MEGGAN CAN'T HANDLE-- WHICH IS VERY LITTLE INDEED-- THEY'LL GIVE A YELL.

MEANWHILE, YOU'RE MY JOB, RACHEL.

AND A MOST PLEASURABLE ONE IT IS, TOO!



SHALL WE DANCE--

--ZUM TUEFUL, WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!

THE FABULOUSLY FANTASTIC FIRE-HAIRED FACE...



... HAS FINALLY CRACKED A SMILE!



WHERE'S THE MUSIC?

WE'LL MAKE OUR OWN.

WE'LL NEVER FIND HER, KURT. HAVEN'T A PRAYER.

KITTY?

HOW CAN WE RESCUE HER--

--WE DON'T KNOW WHERE TO EVEN BEGIN TO LOOK?!



WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, RACHEL.

SHADOWCAT KNEW THE RISKS--

--MORE SO WITH EXCALIBUR THAN WHEN SHE JOINED THE X-MEN.

WE MUST SIMPLY HOPE FOR THE BEST-- THAT SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW, THINGS WILL TURN OUT ALL RIGHT.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!

IN MY LIFETIME-- THE HISTORY YET TO COME--



--MOST OF YOU ARE KILLED!

MUTANTS ARE HUNTED LIKE VERMIN, TO BE SLAUGHTERED ON SIGHT OR IMPRISONED IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

HOW CAN YOU HAVE HOPE WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING?!

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. WE KNOW WHAT'S COMING. THERE'S STILL THE CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

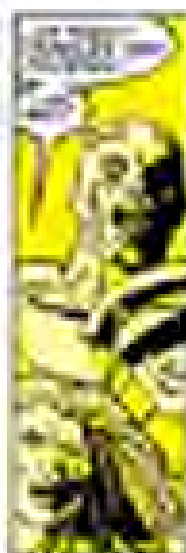


YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO EASY-- GASP?!!

SPIRAL!
I'VE BEEN DANCING UP A SPIRAL RAMP--

--JUST LIKE WHEN YOU TRICKED ME BEFORE--

--THIS IS A TRAP!







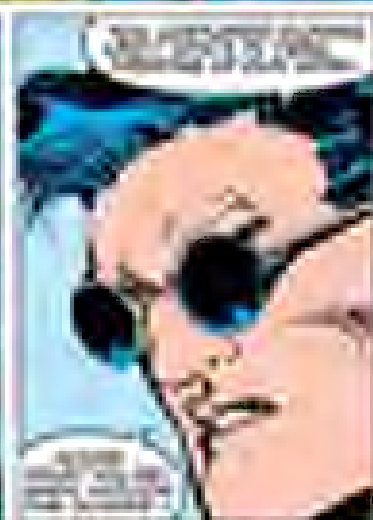
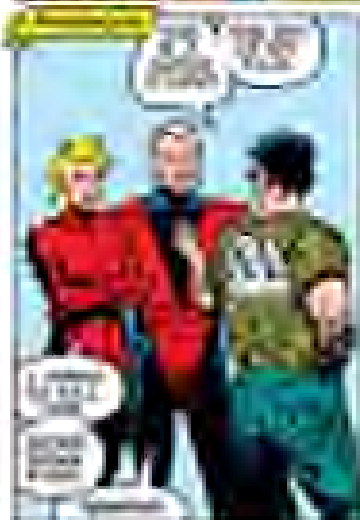


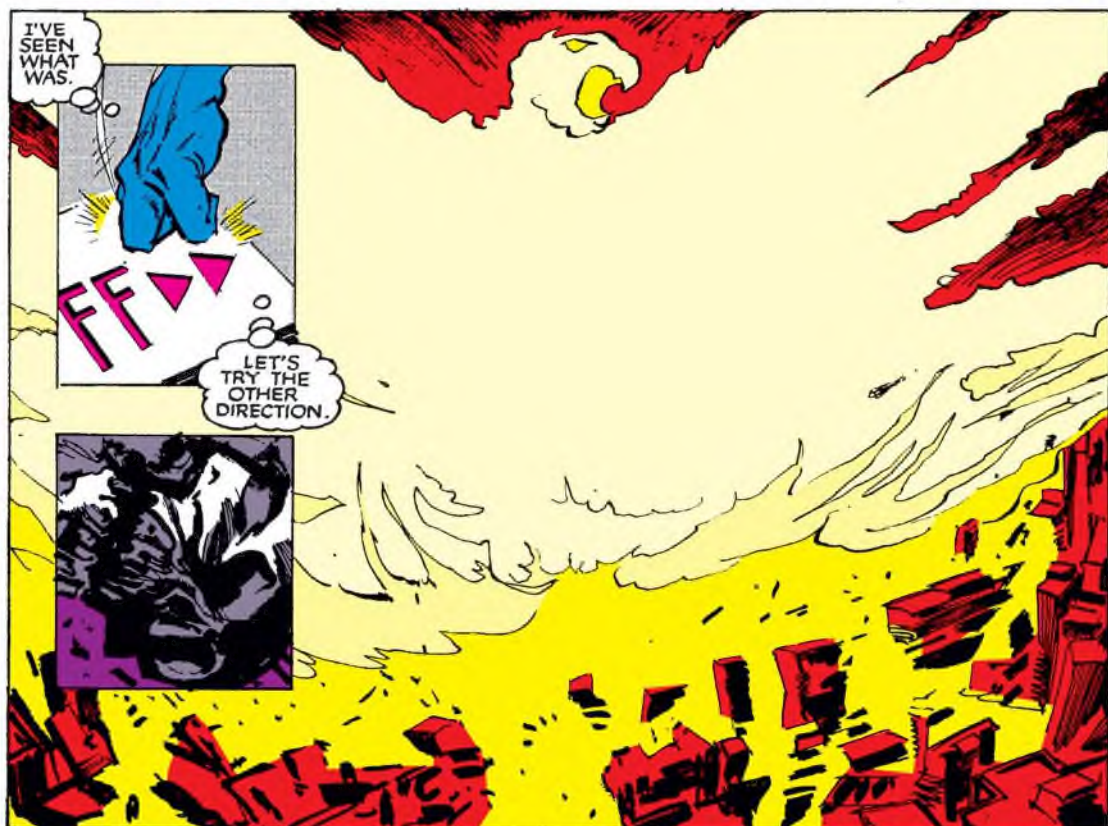
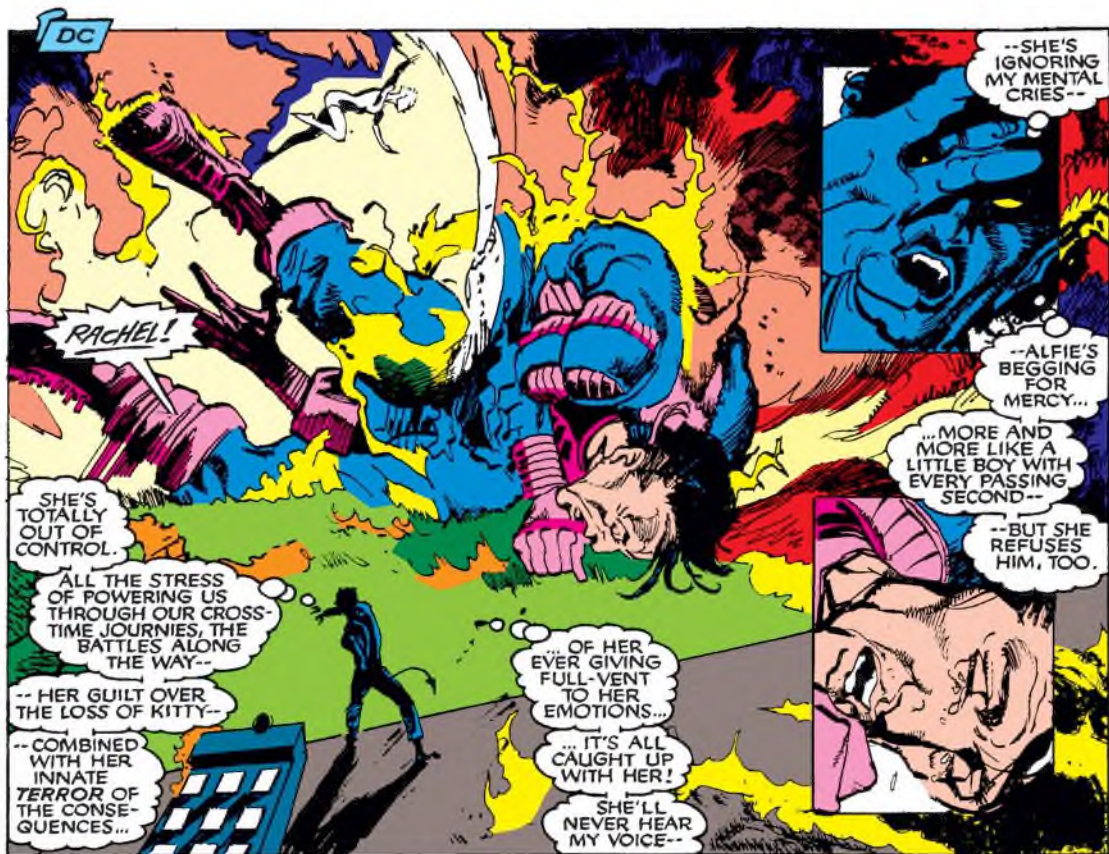












... EXCALIBUR IS A TRIFLE MORE EXPERIENCED WITH CROSS-TIME TRANSIT, MR. DOE, THAN YOU.

FINE. THEN YOU SET THINGS RIGHT.

WE'RE WORKING ON IT. BE PATIENT.

THE 'REMOTE' CONTROLS THE SET.

THE SET IS AN EXTENSION OF ALFIE'S BEING.

CANCEL

BUT SO LONG AS IT'S LINKED TO JAMIE'S, IT'S OUT OF HIS HANDS.

BE REAL! THERE ISN'T TIME FOR PATIENCE--

--THERE MAY BE NO MORE TIME FOR ANYTHING!

DON'T ASK ME HOW I KNOW, I JUST DO!

THE 'REMOTE' IS THE KEY.

IN A NORMAL ONE, THE "CANCEL" SWITCH VOIDS ALL CURRENT COMMANDS.

THE MODULE SHOULD THEN REVERT TO ITS DEFAULT SETTINGS--

--HOPEFULLY ERASING THIS ENTIRE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS--

--THE HORNS OF THIS DILEMMA BEING, DOES "ERASE" MEAN PUTTING THINGS BACK THE WAY THEY WERE... OR ELIMINATING THEM ALTOGETHER?

WHY BOYS AREN'T MERRY

VERY CUTE.

EVER CONSIDER A CAREER IN FILMS?

STEP INTO MY ARMS, TOVARISCH.

I'LL SHOW YOU A LOVE SCENE...

"...YOU'LL NEVER FORGET."

NO CHOICE, REALLY.

ALL OR NOTHING.

KLIK

CANCEL

NO, RACHEL-- NOT SPIRAL, NOT A TRAP--

--ONLY ME!

HURT?

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID.

YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS.



